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MH debates budget money for cultural centre repairs

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre needs work from top to bottom.

Even as budget talks progress, an effort is afoot to tender work on some of the municipality's cultural assets.

Council continued discussions March 7 about capital work priorities to be addressed in the 2023 municipal budget. Work on a number of facets of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre weighed heavily in the debate.

Some of those projects have been ongoing issues over years and led to what can be described as a debate about the importance of various cultural centre assets.

Coin has been put aside to stabilize and reconstruct the foundation of the Bailey Barn at the heritage village. In addition, some of the structural logs have deteriorated and the building's foundation is shifting off its pillars. A proper foundation is required to support the building, protect the asset, and ensure public safety.

There's \$30,000 in a cultural centre reserve fund that's been earmarked for engineering and construction.

"It's been in the budget for a number of years now," said Greg Bedard, finance

Craig Belfry, the township's community services director, said the barn was closed at least the last two years, since he's been in his position.

"We're not giving access right now," he said.

Councillor Pam Sayne said the lack of a municipal advisory committee hamstrings council in being able to determine the importance of such work and the necessity of the

have been able to offer more options for repairs, she said.

"An advisory committee would let us know in terms of the education and preservation value of that building," she said. "Either way, we're going to have to spend money if we're going to either repair it or take it down."

Sayne suggested the item remain in the budget for 2023 and an advisory committee be put together to look into the issue. As the money is sitting in reserves, it isn't a taxation issue that would affect the levy for ratepayers.

"Like all projects, once we get bids and so on, it will be coming back to council," said Mayor Bob Carter. "If there is an advisory committee in place, then they could make a recommendation to council.'

Coun. Tammy McKelvey questioned the wisdom of spending \$30,000 to put a foundation beneath a rotting log barn, even if the money is in reserves.

"The equipment that's in there is rusted so bad that it's not display-worthy," she said. "I really want to make sure that we don't have any more deterioration on some of those other really important buildings at that museum."

Again, said Carter, the counsel of an advisory committee would be beneficial.

"It's always difficult when we're talking about any of these things, whether it be cultural things or sports things," Carter said. "What somebody considers a priceless antique, somebody else considers a needless extravagance."

The cultural centre roof has been leaking for a number of years. It's proposed that \$32,000 be taken from reserve funds to repair the main steel roof, install a heated cable system to melt ice, and repair damage to the



Smiles for miles

Langley Allore, 2, was all smiles during Archie Stouffer's Winter Carnival on March 9. Hundreds attended the event to kick off March Break in Minden. / see CULTURAL page 2 | EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County's proposed shoreline bylaw has been changed to include three of the four lower tier municipalities.

Steve Stone, the county's director of planning, presented the new Shoreline Preservation Bylaw to Minden township council March 9.

After Dysart et al opted not to participate in the county's Shoreline Preservation Bylaw, upper tier staff returned to the drawing board to write alternative legislation, Stone said

The alternative is to implement the bylaw in the three geographic municipalities that expressed interest in it. The amended bylaw will be presented to county council, he said.

The bylaw was approved by the county August 2022 and was slated to be enacted April 1.

The new bylaw includes site alteration regulations pertaining to blasting, filling, and grading in a shoreline area in addition to the existing tree protection regulations.

Dysart's previous council voted against the new bylaw.







The previous mayor felt the legislation left more questions than it answered. A contingent of waterfront property owners got behind the township's opposition to the bylaw.

The group is comprised of more than 300 waterfront residential properties in Dysart and more than 200 owners of waterfront property elsewhere in the Haliburton County.

Property owners have said they're concerned about the delegation of authority for site alteration from the municipality to the county.

In terms of site alteration, Stone said the legislation governs use of trees and the shoreline land or terrain as far as 20 metres of the waterfront.

"In essence, it prohibits any sort of destruction of trees as well as any alteration of the shoreline unless you are getting a permit," Stone said.

One of the key differences between the previous Tree Preservation Bylaw and the new shoreline rules is the latter includes protection of wetlands, he said.

"When we go out to implement it, it's really to assist property owners along the shoreline or that have wetlands to be good stewards of the land," he said. "I often say to people that good bylaw enforcement starts with the property owner."

Stone said minor landscaping is exempted from the rules. And, he said, misconception abounds in the county about what's enforceable.

"I've often heard that you can't even remove weeds from your property within 20 metres (of the waterfront)," he said. "Well, that's simply not true.

"You're allowed to maintain and replace existing features on your shoreline."

Those features include retaining walls at the shoreline. Removing as much as 25 per cent of vegetation without a permit is allowed, he said.

"Ideally, what you're trying to do is maintain a very natural-appearing shoreline," Stone said.

Property owners issued a permit by the municipality to build within the 20-metre area are not required to get one from the county as well.

Fines for infractions can be as high as \$50,000.

Costs to implement the bylaw will be paid by the county from its reserves for the first seven months. Starting in 2024, the program will be funding proportionately by the participating townships. The fee will be proportionate to the number of shoreline lots in each municipality.

Minden Hills has 4,984 shoreline lots for 25 per cent of the lots among the three participating municipalities. That township would contribute \$53,801.88.

Algonquin Highlands has 4,186 shoreline lots for 21 per

ent at \$45,187.

Highlands East has 3,453 shoreline lots for 17 per cent at \$37,274.

Councillor Bob Sisson said Minden Hills doesn't pay anything for the existing tree preservation bylaw. That posed the question of what the town gets for ponying up more than \$50,000.

"You actually will be paying for the services rendered by the planning department of the county for the implementation of this program," Stone said. "I refer to it as extension work that we provide."

Part of that is compliance monitoring and enforcement. He likened it to an iceberg. Ten per cent that's above water is the enforcement. The rest is the cost to administer the program.

No funds are recoverable by the municipality. The \$100 fee paid for permits by property owners goes into Haliburton County coffers.

"Generally, our goal for most of county council is that everything become revenue neutral," Mayor Bob Carter said. "The people who are utilizing the service pay for the service. So I would say that this is the worst-case scenario."

Coun. Ivan Ingram asked about legal fees in the event a shoreline property owner challenges the township in court.

"That, actually, would be something that would be borne by the county," Stone said. "If we have to retain a solicitor, that would be something that comes out of the county's legal budget."

Coun. Pam Sayne said she has many reservations about the bylaw. She was voted to represent residents in Ward 2, but she also stands up for all of Minden Hills.

"I get calls from all over Minden Hills," she said. "On this particular file, I've been getting calls across the county, and particularly calls from Dysart because the bylaws that they have are not being enforced.

"When we talk about amalgamation of all of our municipalities, this is where we're seeing there's going to be a problem."

Dysart opting out of the bylaw is disappointing, she said, because it shows how municipalities can't cooperate at the county level.

The money each township pays for implementation should be based on the number of complaints received in that township instead of the number of shoreline properties, she said.

"Whenever you put into place a bylaw that is such a change from what you did in the past, there's no chance of you ever being able to answer every question and, you know, come up with the absolute perfect theoretical bylaw," Carter said.

Cultural Centre barn roof a 'long-standing' issue

from page 1

facia and soffits. The leaking has also damaged the building's interior.

Coun. Ivan Ingram said \$38,000 was spent on the same roof in 2019. And now they have to write another cheque for it just four years later. He said he'd rather see \$30,000 spent on the cultural centre's roof as opposed to the barn's foundation.

"So you're not dealing with this (roof) issue year after year after year," he said. "Hundreds of thousand have been spent on that building, on that roof, over the years."

Sayne reiterated that council will have to put something in the 2023 municipal purse to either demolish the barn or repair its foundation.

"I agree with you, Coun. Sayne," Ingram said. "I just don't know that it needs to be done this year. Let's get that roof fixed and finished and done. Or are we going to spend another \$50,000 in another four years to fix it again?"

Belfry said there are two sections of the roof on which ice builds, causing damage to the interior ceilings.

"It's been a long-standing issue," Belfry said. "(Over) two decades. I understand."

Sayne said she's aware of a contractor that constructs gables over roof valleys instead of using the heating cables to deal with ice buildup. That would be more cost-effective over time.

"Hydro is going nowhere but up," she said. "I think we

need to leave it in the budget, but I think we need to be open to maybe coming back and saying this is a redesign of putting another metal piece over that metal roof so it (water) comes down differently."

McKelvey said municipal equipment is better suited to road work as opposed to tearing ice off the side of a building and damaging its facia and soffits in the process.

"We today need to say get that roof fixed," McKelvey said. "It's just going to rot the building down soon, and we'll be dealing with another mould issue."

Belfry said any work would be done in the spring.

McKelvey said repairs to the library's roof has been in the township's budget for at least the last three years. Given that, she asked why it has yet to be repaired.

"It's been a long-standing issue," Belfry said. "From me talking to staff, it's been going on for 18 years or so."

"It's been going a long time," McKelvey said. "And, ... as Coun. Ingram mentioned, we already put a lot of money into this roof and here we are doing it again. We just need to make sure we're going to do it correctly."



Three years in a COVID world

by EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's officially been three years since the country was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many surely remember March 15, 2020. A day that the country began to implement shutdowns in an attempt to reduce the risk of covid infection.

It was a time of uncertainty, of questions, of concerns.

But here we are, three years later, and the sun still shines. Despite the disease killing over six million people across the globe and impacting thousands right here in our little towns, it's become something many have learned to live with

Most of the considerations that were put in place during shutdowns have been restored back to pre-COVID days; hand sanitizers lessened and glass barricades removed.

Many are still more comfortable wearing masks, but the politics around them seems to have fizzled out. It seems most are just tired of still talking about it.

And so, after three years of uncertainty, what's changed? And what does the future hold?

Mike Gervais, the principal of Archie Stouffer Elementary School, was optimistic about the next steps for the school. "We have learned a great deal about students and student learning," he said. "We have used diagnostic tools to determine the learning gaps that students may have developed during the Covid school closures, and planned and implemented targeted programming to address these gaps.'

He noted that the school board has retracted many of the restrictions that have been in place over the past three years, opening up the opportunities for assemblies, concerts, and regular recesses once again. He believes these have been some highlights from the past year, and is optimistic about the direction the school year is going at this point.

Gervais believes that through it all, he has seen that staff and students at the local school are resilient, adaptive, and resourceful. "We have learned that when we work together we can accomplish anything," he said.

Molly McInerey, the owner of Molly's Bistro Bakery was hit fairly hard with the pandemic uncertainty, like many restaurants were. "I know that we weren't hit as hard as restaurants in the city," she shared, "and because of COVID, our



The first COVID-19 assessment centre in the Highlands opened at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre in March of 2020. /FILE

full-time population has grown. I think we learned how to be flexible and adjust to change."

McInerey said that while the shutdowns were challenging, she didn't mind a bit of a break to come up with some new ideas and recipes. She was also able to think outside the box and offer alternative food options, as the traditional sit-down dining was off the table.

She developed a series of themed date night ideas, as well as Carry Home Frozen Cuisine, which allowed her to keep her business open, even if the doors were closed. "You are always used to highs and lows when you have a business in Minden," she said, "but COVID certainly put a different spin on that.'

One observation McInerey made in this "post-pandemic" world, is that once restrictions started lifting, visitors seemed to have misplaced basic manners that were usually utilized in a public setting. "There was a huge increase in rudeness and impatience," she told the Times. "I think people forgot how to behave in public. It's calmed down now, but it was interesting to see.'

McInerey believes that now is the time for the local government to start moving forward. "We need people visiting our community again," she said. "We also need to attract and woo new businesses to our town. The reality is, if there aren't any draws to attract the public then we are not going attract the businesses and they will go somewhere else." She fears that Minden will become a "dead town" if effort and energy are not put into recruiting visitors.

Despite life going back to "normal", COVID-19 cases are still prevalent in the region, with 3,914 identified cases and 34 deaths in Ontario between Feb. 26 and March 4, 2023. According to Public Health Ontario's weekly epidemiology summary, cases seem to be declining over the past eight weeks.

This is a developing story, and will continue in next week's

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IMPORTANT LANDFILL CARD INFORMATION

Don't recycle your current Landfill Card, blue in colour, valid from May 1, 2021-April 30, 2023, has been extended to the end of December 2023.

A MESSAGE FROM THE

With springs arrival and warmer weather ahead, the By-law and Fire Departments would like to remind Community Members in Minden Hills about burning regulations and safety. Beginning April 1st, daytime burning is prohibited until October 31st. All open air burning is prohibited at all times. You will need a Burn Permit and an inspection to burn during the day.

Factors to consider if burning:

- Only class A Combustibles can be burned
- Fires must be 15 metres from all structures and vehicles
 - Fires must be 5 metres from any forested area
 - · Fires cannot exceed 2 metres X 2 metres in size
 - · Fires are not permitted during windy conditions
- Smoke cannot impair motorists or other residents · Fires must be attended at all times with a water supply readily available
 - · Zero tolerance for burning during declared fire bans

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



If you're getting festive this year, focus on making your own decorations, or purchase items that can be reused annually. Most storebought decorations are not recyclable, so if you must dispose of them, please place them in your household garbage.

CULTURAL CENTRE MARCH BREAK PROGRAMMING

March Break Drop-In Program at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre! Visit us in Nature's Place during March Break any time from 10 am – 12 pm for a fun nature based hands-on activity geared to children ages 4-10 years old. All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Admission is by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 x 542 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL **MEETINGS**

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

March 30 - Regular Council Meeting

April 13 - Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList. aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.



2023 DOG TAGS

2023 Dog Tags are available \$10 each from January 1 to March 31 and \$15 each from April 1 to December 31

Boardwalk restoration budget falls short

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Minden Hills council and staff know full well how quickly costs can swell in this economically precarious pandemic age.

The township previously earmarked \$150,000 in the 2023 municipal capital works budget for the restoration of the Minden Boardwalk and Riverwalk structure. But town staff recently discovered that amount won't cover even the cheapest option to rectify flood damage to the boardwalk.

Council was told March 7 that the more likely price range for the job is between \$180,000 and \$210,000.

"You don't usually add to the budget, so this will be a new experience," said Councillor Tammy McKelvey. "I think I'm prepared to do this. I think it's a really important piece of infrastructure."

Council decided to adjust this year's municipal operating and capital budget to allow for the work. A call for tenders will also be issued.

The Minden Boardwalk restoration project involves the replacement of the boards and barriers and releveling of the support structures.

Capital investment is required to improve the asset's lifespan and to ensure user safety. The project is partially funded by an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant.

Originally, the budget for the boardwalk's repair and restoration was set at \$150,000. But the town has since received information about different scenarios, said Craig Belfry,

the township's community services director.

For composite decking material, the price has risen to \$210,000.

"But there is an issue with the composite," he said.

The bumpers along the deck's sides aren't composed of composite.

"So you would have to go to a wood on there, which wouldn't match up and would rot at a different pace than the composite," Belfry said. "So that's the major sticking point to that."

The price for pressure-treated material is \$160,000, which can be used for the sides with about a half-inch between it and the deck itself so water can escape. That would lengthen the wood's life.

With a contingency figure added to the quote, the price would be at about \$180,000 for pressure-treated wood, Belfry said.

"I don't think you would need to carry a maintenance budget for a number of years with either solution, whether it's pressure treated or composite," he said.

Belfry said there could be eight to 10 years before the boardwalk would need significant maintenance work with the pressure treated wood. Obviously, he said, composite material would stave off maintenance for a longer period.

Mayor Bob Carter asked if pressure treated material is environmentally safe to be used on a boardwalk that traverses a natural grass marsh wetland.

Belfry said the contractor has used such lumber in similar areas in the past.

"I guess the question is do we adjust the budget for this?" said Carter.

McKelvey said the asset is too important to the community for council to settle on a simple Band-Aid solution to address the disrepair.

"It is well used," she said. "It's a place that people actually drive to town to walk on."

If the lower priced material will last eight to 10 years before any of it would need replacing, Coun. Pam Sayne suggested the boardwalk's annual maintenance budget that would go unused to offset the current project cost.

Belfry said there is no annual maintenance budget specifically for the boardwalk

"There hasn't been anything," he said, and added that's the reason for the current restoration need.

"Not all the boards are going to go at once, but there may be certain spots that will weaken over time," he said. "Replace this, but I think that's the key to anything is carrying a good maintenance line that you can keep this up year by year."

Coun. Bob Sisson asked if the current prices are guaranteed.

"Nothing is guaranteed," Belfry said.

Quickly tendering the work could serve to lock in the price, he said.

Composite material has a life span of about 25 years, Belfry said.

Coun. Ivan Ingram said the pressure treated material would probably have to be replaced twice in that time.

Belfry said the duration of lumber, even pressure treated, will be affected by how wet it gets. Composite, he said, will fade over time.

"I don't want to be the one to decide whether this should be composite or pressure treated," McKelvey said. "I like the pressure treated cost option."

Belfry suggested the tender documents include a request for prices for both materials.

Bowling Alley keeping doors open for another season

by EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Fast Lane Bowling in Minden isn't going anywhere ... yet.

After a steep increase in rent back in December, Ron Crump and Debbie Gerzmymisch were certain that a closure was inevitable. The couple were concerned about the absence of the facility in the area, as it's a hub for community programs and organized events.

Thanks to a GoFundMe that was set up in an attempt to keep the doors open, Fast Lane was able to get through the holiday season. "It gave us the time to rebudget," said Gerzmymisch, "it helped us get over the initial shock"

After the holiday season, Crump and Gerzmymisch were able to have a formal conversation with the new owners of the building. "We ended up coming to an agreement with the landlord for different rates," said Crump.

While the couple want to see the business continue in the community, they have come to terms with the fact that it will not be them who continues with it. "We are working on

the paperwork now," said Crump, "and the business will be going up for sale relatively soon."

They intend to relocate to Sault Ste. Marie to spend time with their family, and are particularly excited about spending time with their young granddaughter, who is six months old. "Our leagues know what's happening," said Gerzmymisch. "They know the grand-baby comes first."

Crump is hoping that by putting the business up for sale now, it will spark interest and provide a window so that the leagues can continue for another season, which runs from September to April. "We will stay open for one more full season," he said, "and then we will hopefully be able to transfer everything over to new owners."

Despite wrapping up their careers at Fast Lane, Crump and Gerzmymisch are eager to continue providing a facility where the community can gather, including offering March Break specials as the regular season winds

Fast Lane Bowling can be found at 12281 ON-35, Minden. You can visit their website at www.fastlanebowling.com or follow their social media channels.





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A different kind of hat trick for Duchene

by EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Many readers would remember Anthony Micallef; a local graduate of Archie Stouffer Elementary School and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and a vibrant personality through and through. Brianne Pockett, an EA at Hal High while Micallef attended, recalled that he was a class clown in the best way possible. "We developed a fast friendship based on comedies and sarcasm," she laughed. "We would go toe to toe saying lines from movies. Anchorman was usually our go to. He also loved a good joke or prank."

After graduating from Hal High, Micallef went on to attend Carleton University in Ottawa, where he received his undergraduate degree as well as his master's in information technology. "We kept in touch during his Carleton days," said Pockett. "I was so proud of him! He accomplished so much." Micallef became an accessibility consultant, and started his own business designing aides for physically handicapped individuals.

Micallef had a vibrant zest for life, and charmed everyone he met on his journeys. Yet through it all, he had a rare neuromuscular disability called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), which impacted the voluntary muscles used for activities such as walking, head and neck control, and swallowing.

Despite being told by many health professionals that he would not survive beyond childhood due to the uncommon disease, Micallef thrived. He made the most out of the time he had, and his efforts impacted countless lives.

Micallef tragically died last summer; a loss that impacted the many communities he was a part of.

One individual who was particularly impacted by the sudden loss, was Matt Duchene.

Duchene is a Haliburton local who currently plays for the Nashville Predators in the NHL. Despite spending years traveling for hockey, he always remained tied to his hometown.



Matt Duchene of the Nashville Predators has launched a campaign with the pictured hats, where all funds will go to Cure SMA Canada in his friend, Anthony Micallef's name. /Photo submitted

He met Micallef when the two boys were "very young" at Sunday school, and they remained close as they grew up.

"I heard the awful news about Anthony this summer when it happened, and I couldn't shake it for about a week. It really, really shook me like it did to so many others," Duchene told the Times.

Since last summer, Duchene has spent time thinking about what he could do to honour the life of his friend. On March 7, he launched a campaign to raise money for Cure SMA Canada; an organization dedicated to supporting those navigating SMA. "I felt with my platform I would be able to really shine some light on what an amazing person he was and do something big on a charitable level in his name," he shared.

Duchene took to his social media channels to reach out to those interested in helping out. He said that while he has raised a significant amount of money through his "Hockey Tonk Suite" inside the Bridgestone Arena where he plays, he wanted to incorporate a tangible element into the fundraising initiative.

With this idea in mind, he released a limited edition hat for those who want to be a part of the cause. "I'm really hoping we sell out of the hats and have to re-order; that would be incredible," Duchene said. "I'm really excited to share the amount we'll be donating in his name."

While it's easy to get caught up in the whirlwind of fundraising, Duchene shared that he wants to remember the person Micallef was. "Anthony was not dealt a very good hand in life with his disability, but he never let that deter him from what he wanted to do or from being happy," he told the Times. "He was incredibly bright, kind, hardworking and he had a great sense of humour."

"It was great to see Matt's Instagram post on fundraising for SMA," said Pockett. "Matt is always so giving and compassionate and he never forgets Haliburton. He has a huge heart and shows it through his contributions to many fundraisers."

Duchene hopes the campaign is able to run throughout the duration of the regular NHL season, to raise as much money as possible in Micallef's name to benefit Cure SMA Canada.

For information about how to support the cause, visit Duchene.givesmart.com or follow @matt9duchene on Instagram.



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Priorities

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

URING BUDGET talks, the word "priorities" is a buzz term often thrown around the table. What, in the grand scheme of things, takes priority?

The dictionary defines priority as: "the fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important."

So what's the most important in these budget conversations? Does that answer change day to day? Municipal departments should have a symbiotic relationship; each one thriving and supporting one another, because if one falls, they all crumble. So who decides what's more important than the others?

Generally, public works take priority. Roads, waste disposal, water. The things that make a

More often than not, the arts are cut on the priority chopping block. A fact I always found interesting, as arts and culture sing the siren song of the region; lulling visitors from near and far. The visitors who make up the bulk of our economic stability.

municipality tick.

The Cultural Centre facility is once again up for debate. \$32,000 is required to fix a leaky roof that's been dripping on priceless paintings for over a decade. In 2019, \$38,000 was spent on that same roof. While that seems like a lot of dough up front, it was nothing more than a band-aid on the problem as a whole, because in 2019, it wasn't a priority.

Now, here we are again.

A few weeks ago, James Matthews shared that county council had made a decision to cut \$50,000 from their capital and operating budget that was allocated to the Community Transportation project funding, and \$20,000 from their economic development projects. I'm not even going to take a deep dive into the

cuts they made to affordable housing projects, the shoreline bylaw, or climate change initiatives. The things that maybe some don't necessarily want, but we absolutely need.

With these cuts in place, the county tax levy was still increased by 2.79 percent.

I am sure county councillors had their reasons. More often than not, it's the priorities that are right in front of our noses. Potholes that get filled in and snow that's shoved from icy streets. It's the things we use every day, but never see. The ease of life we have here doesn't come for free. There's always a cost in place.

But at what cost?

What are we losing by prioritizing the projects right in front of us?

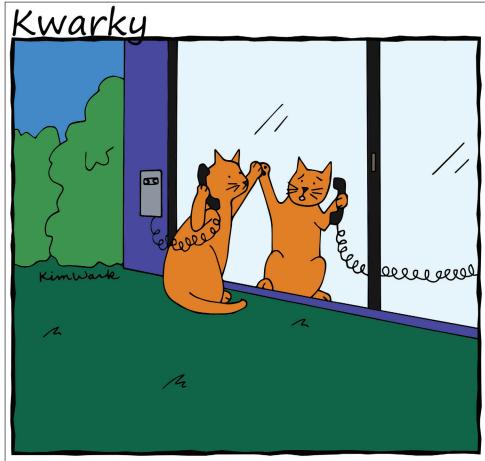
It's hard to tell. And sometimes we can't see these things until they're gone. It's like vacuuming; it's something you never notice when it's done, but you always notice when it's not.

What if municipalities took turns picking priorities. One year, all

the departments invest wholeheartedly into the arts. Everything is poured into the culture, the craft, the creativity of the community. Our taxes get the arts community up to par, and then the next year, we're able to move on. Maybe the following year, we lean into community services, or public works, or anything else.

The process that's in practice now is a band-aid solution. We are skimming the surface of the needs of our community; giving sectors a life preserver to keep their heads above water, but never offering a boat to take them to land.

I don't know what the answer is to supporting our community the way it financially needs to stay afloat, but I do know that somehow, we need to make it a priority.



"I don't even get 15 minutes in the yard!"

Lightening the load

UST AS you can age a tree by the rings in its trunk, I am pretty sure you can age an outdoorsman by the weight of the canoe he carries. And, frankly, it is a lot less messy.

When I was in my teens, I bought a 67 pound, 16-foot fibreglass canoe. I paddled that thing through every marsh and dragged it over every beaver dam I knew during the duck season without any issues. That was the right canoe for me back then. It was inexpensive.

About 15 years later, after I literally wore that canoe out, I bought a 17-foot Coleman canoe that weighs 90 pounds. Portaging this is the main reason I am five-foot-three.

Back then, the weight wasn't much of an issue as I was in my early 30s and as fit and strong as I was ever going to be. Plus, I had two young kids at the time, and I thought that this

canoe would be the perfect vessel for paddling and fishing trips. I have fond memories of that canoe. My back does not.

I still own it, as it apparently can only be destroyed by large doses of Kryptonite. But these days I keep it permanently parked at a friend's property on a riverbank where we still use it to hunt ducks and pull muscles we never knew existed. Between the two of us, we can carry it just fine. But we are much older and wiser, so we do not.

As much as I hate to admit it, my days of solo carrying that canoe for any amount of time are over. It's not that I can't lift it up over my head. It's more like putting it down is no longer a pre-

dictable event. And I don't want to be found looking like the Wicked Witch of the East after Dorothy's house landed on her. That's not a good look for an outdoorsman

That is why, when I hit 59, I bought a used 14-foot fibreglass canoe that weighs somewhere around sixty pounds. It's perfect for solo fishing or hunting as it is still easy enough to load and unload off the top of my vehicle. The only issue is that it is a little small for two. And, by two, I mean me and a duck.

This year though, I will be buying a bigger, more age-appropriate canoe. The canoe I have in mind is a 16-foot Kevlar Carbon fusion canoe that weighs 34 or so pounds – approximately the same weight as the wad of bills required for its purchase.

But to me, it will be worth it. This is the canoe that I hope will carry me through my 60s, or rather the one that

I will carry through my 60s. And I will recoup all that money in reduced vehicle roof repair costs and chiropractic treatments. Plus, if I am going to have to sit at any boat launch in a canoe until the blood starts to recirculate in my legs again, I want it to be one that looks good.

As much as I am loving the idea of a canoe that light, I am also reasonably certain it will not be my last or even lightest canoe. You see, I have a buddy who makes them even lighter than that, out of ballistic nylon. They are so light that I am pretty sure they carry themselves. Which is good because my paddles seem to have gotten heavier ...



STEVE GALEA *Beyond 35*

INOTHERWORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Fewer perks for the privileged

VE ALWAYS been in love with the RCAF – the Royal Canadian Air

My love affair began young when I set out to become an RCAF fighter pilot. Fate intervened, and I ended up flying typewriters instead of fighter jets. My love swelled this week when I read the RCAF is cutting back expensive snacks and other amenities it serves its privileged passengers.

The RCAF flies big wigs like the governor general, prime minister, various politicians and bureaucrats on official business in Canada and abroad. Those priv-

JIM POLING SR. From Shaman's Rock

ileged passengers get in-flight drinks, meals on glass dishes, newspaper and magazines and other amenities, such as flower arrangements, to ensure their comfort.

Defence department overlords have decided to reduce amenities and have their privileged passengers travel more like the rest of us.

If they follow through, the saving of taxpayer funds should be substantial. For instance, the governor general's trip to Dubai last March cost taxpayers \$1.3 million, which included \$100,000 in-flight catering for 30 people - roughly \$3,300 a person.

Those folks had a choice of beef Wellington, chicken scaloppini or beef carpaccio for each leg of the trip.

Government records show costs of \$552 for ice, \$526 for limes and lemons, \$110 for four litres of apple juice and \$1,000 for water.

The aircraft was restocked during the Dubai trip. Replenishing the supply of potato chips, cashews, yogurt and granola cost several thousand dollars, according to government figures.

The RCAF has ordered that in-flight snacks no longer will be bought at foreign stops. All snack items will be purchased in Trenton where the transport aircraft

Also, all non-alcoholic drinks, such as mineral water, will be sourced in Canada and Newspapers, magazines and flowers no longer will be available on flights.

Meal choices will be more closely scrutinized, and all passengers will be served the same standard choices. No more wide-ranging menus.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) seems happy with the changes. Franco Terrazzano, the federation's national director says, however, more needs to be done to reduce extravagance and improve transparency.

"Taxpayers expect bureaucrats to be capable of exercising restraint and using common sense," he was quoted in the media. "That means not enjoying beef Wellington on an airplane when Canadians can't afford hamburgers.'

He added that taxpayers should be given more detailed information on travel spending, For instance, receipts could be posted online. even posting receipts online. Getting basic information now is like pulling teeth, he said.

Cutting in-flight extravagances should help the RCAF to escape being nominated for one of the CTF's annual Teddy Waste Awards. The awards, pig-shaped trophies, are given each year to the worst garment waste offenders. They are named for Ted Weatherill, the federal bureaucrat fired from his job as Canada Labour Relations Board head for reckless spending, including a \$700 lunch for

Travel and food are big ticket items in federal spending. Global Affairs Canada has won a Teddy for spending \$11.2 million to fly chefs around the world (firstclass) to cook at various embassies. This was part of some government program called the Mission Cultural Fund.

The federal Liberal government also has picked up a Teddy lifetime achievement award for sending 276 delegates to the 2021 climate change conference in the UK. The huge cost of that jaunt included \$3,000 for a luxury limo service to take Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland from Edinburg to Glasgow, where the conference was being held.

It's unclear why Freeland stayed in Edinburg, roughly 90 kilometres from Glasgow. Her room in Edinburg's Hotel Indigo cost roughly \$750 Canadian a

Ottawa's food bills should become a bit smaller when Prime Minister Trudeau spends time at his Harrington Lake cottage this summer. He won't have to order in. He will be able to cook for himself in the new \$700,000 to \$1 million kitchen his government has installed at the cottage.

The federal government spent another \$2.5 million to replace a "backup" cottage at Harrington Lake. The backup was considered necessary temporary accommodation while the main cottage was being renovated. It is to be used by security details and other officials when the main cottage renovations have been completed.

letters to the editor

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust celebrates grant

On Friday, March 3, The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) held a public event at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, Fish Hatchery to recognize a \$9,100 Resilient Communities Fund (RCF) grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). Local MPP Laurie Scott joined the team to hear how funding from OTF helped the HHLT develop a new strategic plan that addresses the need for recovery from the recent pandemic, enhances resilience to future disruptions and builds organizational

"I am pleased that Haliburton Highlands Land Trust has been awarded \$9,100 to continue their conservation efforts in the region," said MPP Laurie Scott. "This investment will support their ongoing efforts to recover from the pandemic and develop sustainable ecological strategies for the region."

Thanks to OTF funding, the HHLT has been working with professional consultants to develop a strategic plan that reflects its conservation priorities and organizational values. Along with input from all stakeholders, including volunteers, members, donors and community partners, HHLT is updating and developing new goals and objectives in the context of pandemic recovery and resilience to future challenges.

The impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant cannot be overstated," said Shelley Hunt, Chair HHLT.

"Through reflection, visioning and discussion with our leadership group, and engagement of internal and external communities, HHLT has been able to work on developing a strategic plan that is realistic, while addressing the need for recovery and ongoing resiliency post-pandemic."

HHLT plans to emerge from this process as a stronger, more resilient organization with clear and realistic goals for the coming years, with a plan for achieving those goals. To learn more about the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust and for more information about this project and upcoming events, please visit www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations celebrates 40 years of grantmaking in Ontario and making a lasting impact in communities. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$209M into 2,042 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario's Community Building Fund. Visit off.ca to learn more.

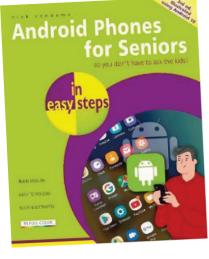
Submitted



Life in the Fast Lane

Members of the Haliburton Rotary Club, Minden Rotary Club, and Rotaract Haliburton Highlands gathered on Thursday, Mar. 9 for a night of fun at Fast Lane Bowling in Minden. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

HCPL's Book of the Week



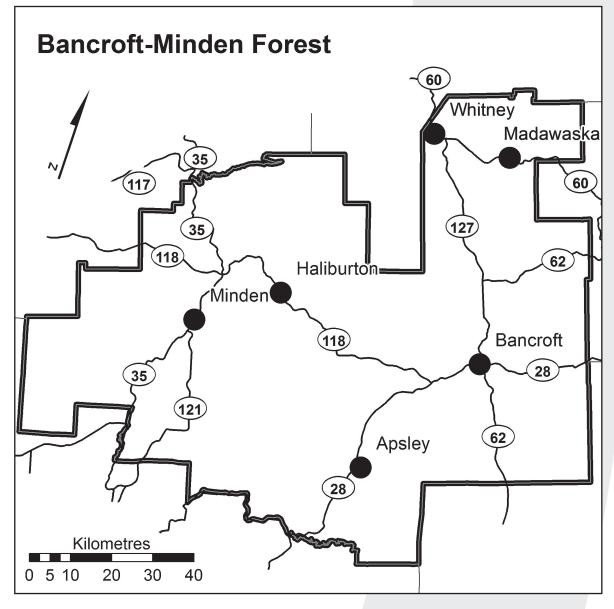
Android phones can be a great little tool to have on hand, but sometimes it seems like learning how to use them is a tad overwhelming! This book, written by an IT trainer, will teach you how to use your phone frustration-free. With clear language, Nick Vandome explains the way Android phones work and how they interact with Google and other services. You will learn how to make the most of your phone, including how to navigate it, customize it for what you need, make phone calls, send emails and text messages, take photos, read e-books, and

Android Phones for Seniors by Nick Vandome is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

INSPECTION

Inspection Of 2023 – 2024 Annual Work Schedule for Bancroft-Minden Forest

The April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Bancroft-Minden Forest** is available electronically for public viewing by contacting the **Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC)**, during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning March 15, 2023 and for the one-year duration of the AWS.



Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

BMFC is responsible for tree planting on the Bancroft-Minden Forest. Please contact the Forest Company listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the rules for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please see the Ministry's webpage: <u>Using wood from Crown land for personal use.</u> For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company listed below.

More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNRF staff listed below:

Ernie Demuth, R.P.F.

Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
tel: 613-202-2208
e-mail: ernie.demuth@ontario.ca

Julie Edwards, R.P.F.

Communications Forester Bancroft Minden Forest Company tel: 613-332-6890 e-mail: julie@bmfci.ca

Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

ontario.ca/forestmanagement



The Conundrum of Caring I - Procreation

In Korea, a birth strike is happening: women are deciding not to have babies. Korea's fertility rate in 2021 is down to .81, the lowest in the world for the past three years – that's eight-tenths or four-fifths of one baby born per woman of child-bearing years. The number of deaths exceeded the number of births starting three years ago. This is killing the economy and up-ending the culture.

What's with this? Why aren't women doing what they've always done, replenishing the species? Because they're fed up.



FAY MARTINPoke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

Hawon Jung, author of Flowers of Fire about the #MeToo movement in Korea, quotes a 30-year old woman saying "The birth strike is women's revenge on a society that puts impossible burdens on us and doesn't respect us." (New York Times International Weekly, Feb 4-5/23, opinion section.)

We're not far behind: Canada's fertility rate was 1.40 in 2020. Anything under 2.1 means the pop-

ulation is declining (because women have to have babies to replace men, as well as themselves). Many of my age cohort were not confident that we would become grandparents. Many family trees are becoming spindly saplings that aren't likely to survive into the future.

BC just decided to have prescription birth control paid for by the government, which seems an odd decision in the circumstances. The movement (dare we call it that?) for affordable day care seems a more appropriate direction. But maybe BC is recognizing how hard a job having children is, what commitment and investment it takes to raise children well, and what the cost to society is when it is not done well. Maybe the decision to make birth control free is suggesting that becoming a mother is a choice one should make very carefully.

Because with choice comes responsibility. Any choice does, but the choice of motherhood is particularly rife with responsibility. I've written in an earlier column about motherhood being a life sentence, and I do believe it isn't a role one grows out of, although the job changes over time.

Or maybe it doesn't. Maybe it gets stuck. I can run out of fingers counting the number of women I know whose adult children have either failed to launch or returned home for an extended adolescence with most of the perks of adulthood and few of the responsibilities. If the choice to become a mother is in serious danger of becoming endless, with children who don't grow up up and away, little wonder that women are giving serious second thought to getting on the baby train. Little wonder they want free and liberal access to birth control.

How did we get here? Stanley Hall "discovered" adolescence as a developmental stage in 1904. Sigmund Freud and colleagues deemed that the work of adolescence was for children to wean themselves from their mothers in order to make the great leap into adulthood. I see a significant amount of permission for adolescents to declare their mothers passé and redundant without the accompanying leap into independence. The time period allotted to adolescence has always been debated, but there is no question that it is growing inexorably longer as the traditional trappings of adult independence – financial sufficiency, mating, procreating – become more elusive. If those characteristics are no longer the markers of adulthood, what is?

We know that capitalism runs on scarcity and competition, and successful cultures and economies require an educated work force, so parental responsibility now extends to facilitating (a gentle word for funding) post-public education that will render their child competitive. As credentialism has taken hold, the need for privately-funded education could be, well, life-long. And if the credentials don't deliver a job, the kind of job that could rightfully be expected as a consequence of the investment in time and money, well, then, the kind of adult independence that used to be the expectation is no longer warranted. Right?

I don't know. What I do know is that messing with the cycle of life that is natural to other living things – birth, growth, procreation, decline, death – creates problems that were foreseeable but unseen, or at least disregarded. I blame – you know I do! – capitalism. Anything I say can and will be used against me, but if I look to nature as an alternate way of understanding how things work -- which, let's face it, has had a much longer run of success -- I see collaboration where capitalism has competition, and equilibrium where capitalism has scarcity.

With choice comes responsibility. Like it or not, that's the human condition, the one Eve is blamed for bringing down on our heads when she succumbed to the alure of the apple. Which, as I recall, preceded her procreating. Hmmm ...

A 'happy and peaceful home' for everyone

by EMILY STONEHOUSE Editor

Karinya: an Australian Aboriginal word that can be translated to "a happy and peaceful home."

This is the vision of Abby Gordon, the founder of Karinya Home Care Inc., based out of Minden.

The bright-eyed 23 year-old originally hails from Australia, but moved to the Haliburton Highlands when she was young. She attended local schools all the way through to high school, before moving to Ottawa to attend Algonquin College for community studies, followed by a focus on developmental services work.

"I always knew I wanted to work with people who have disabilities," she said. Through her schooling and placements, she felt like she was on the right track. That is, until the pandemic hit.

'When COVID first hit I wasn't sure what to do," she shared. "My placements had been cancelled, and I was at a bit of a crossroads, so I decided to move home.'

Upon returning to the Highlands, Gordon started a position at HHHS as a COVID screener. As time went on, she began to connect with the staff and the atmosphere, and it wasn't long before she was offered a position as an activity aide at Highland Crest in Minden, a long term care (LTC) facility.

'This wasn't anywhere on my radar," she laughed. "I never thought about working with seniors, but I absolutely fell in love with it on my very first day.

Gordon shared with the *Times* that she felt connected to all the residents at the LTC home. She would spend hours listening to their stories, hearing about their past, and getting them exercising and active to improve their quality of life. "The one-on-one time was really what was the most rewarding for me," she said.

While the role was engaging, Gordon shared that after nearly three years, she began to feel burnt out. She started considering returning to school, or finding an alternative path, but nothing felt like quite the right fit. Until suddenly, she was inspired to start her own business.

"It was an incredibly hard decision to make," she said. "I had no idea how I would say goodbye to the people I was working with, but I knew I needed to walk away. For myself, and for the opportunity to help other people."

The crux of Karinya Home Care Inc. is

"to make people feel like people" in their own homes. Gordon shared that often-



I want people to be able to stay in their own homes; the spaces where they feel the safest and the happiest.

> — ABBY GORDON, OWNER OF KARINYA HOME CARE INC.



times, as people age or are faced with diseases or disabilities, they are often seen as "patients" instead of "people". She is hoping to remedy that.

Some of the services she offers are personal care and wake-up rituals, companionship care, medical reminders and wellness checks, basic house cleaning, accompanying transportation services, and meal preparation for seniors and those with disabilities, especially those living alone. "I want people to be able to stay in their own homes; the spaces where they feel the safest and the happiest, and I want to help them with whatever they need to be happy and healthy.

She launched the business on Feb. 21, and within six days, her books were entirely full, with a growing waitlist of over 20 people. "The need is a lot bigger than I originally thought it was," she said. 'I am overwhelmed in the best way pos-

Gordon hopes to grow her business further, based on the apparent need in the community, but shared that she needs some time and space to be able to get her footing before she can expand her team and her services. "Compassion, empathy, and patience are huge for me," she said. "I want to grow my team with people who live for those qualities, so I can't rush that."

Karinya home care is available across the county, and Gordon will happily answer any questions, or add individuals to a waitlist until she is able to accommodate all the needs in the community. "It's so hard for me to say no to people, but I just need some patience from people who are interested right now, and I want to help everyone as soon as I can."

You can follow Gordon's journey and services on Instagram by visiting @karinyahomecareinc_or you can contact her directly at karinyahomecare@outlook.com.



Abby Gordon of Minden has launched Karinya Home Care Inc., which offers services to seniors and those with disabilities across the county. /Photo submitted

PUBLIC NOTICE

SEASON, EVERY SEASON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

- 1. File No. PLSRA2022084: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of East Moore Lake. lying in front 1041 Acadia Lane located within Part Lot 22, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth.
- 2. File No. PLSRA2022091: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1118 Golden Rod Lane located within Part Lot 14, Concession 11, Geographic Township of

You can provide input by making a written submission to the Township. To provide input in writing, please contact the undersigned or e-mail adougherty@mindenhills.ca no later than April 14, 2023.

The Council meeting to consider a by-law to stop up, close and convey those parcels listed above will be scheduled for a later date. Should you wish to be notified when a Council meeting has been scheduled, please contact the undersigned or email

adougherty@mindenhills.ca no later than April 14, 2023.

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons) Township Planning Consultant 705-742-2297x278 adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Fraud awareness for **Haliburton County**

Haliburton Highlands Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) wish to remind residents of specific types of frauds that continue to be reported and precautions that you can take to

Sextortion is a fraud where the suspect creates a fake profile on social media platforms and then encourages the victim to engage in sexual acts on camera. Unknown to the victim, the other person is recording this activity, then later contacts you and requests money to prevent this video from being distributed to friends, family or even coworkers.

Take steps to protect yourself, such as ensuring the camera on your electronic device is turned off or covered when not intentionally using it. Do not accept requests on social media platforms from people you do not know. Remember any activity that you engage while live streaming can be recorded.

In the second type of fraud called "spear phishing" the suspect, pretending to be an existing employee in a company, sends an email to someone else in the same organization and requests the transfer of company funds. This payment is usually requested in the form of a gift card purchase or electronic money transfer. The email address from the person requesting funds is fraudulent. People can avoid this scam by calling the person requesting the money directly and confirming that this request is legitimate. Carefully check e-mail addresses of the sender when you receive such a request. Be suspicious.

> Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands OPP



Winning start for playoff home games

Christian Stevens #17 celebrates the fourth goal of their first playoff game against the Toronto Patriots on Thursday, March 9 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies won the game 5-2. /TIM YANO Special to the

Sudoku brought to you by

LISA MERCER

BROKER cell: 705.457.0364



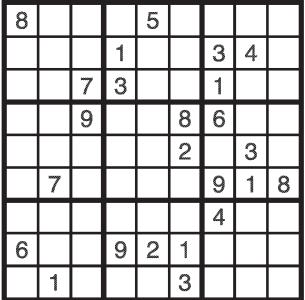
PROFESSI^ONALS **NORTH**

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

Follow me on Facebook!

lisa@lisamercer.ca





Fun By The **Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 13



Huskies #75 Patrick Saini celebrates goal with fans on other side of glass.



The Huskies celebrate their overtime win during their third playoff game against the Toronto Patriots, winning with a final score of 4-3, on Sunday, March 12 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. /TIM YANO Special to the Times



Huskies #73 Marco lozzo takes a shot during the third playoff game.

OPP investigating serious snowmobile collision

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Township. Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment are investigating a serous snowmobile collision that has left one person with serious

On March 11, 2023, at 11:23 p.m., members from the Haliburton Highlands OPP received information regarding a collision involving a snowmobile that was reported to have possibly struck a tree, on OFSC Trail B112 off Highway 118 in Minden Hills

The injured person was subsequently transported to a trauma center for medical attention.

The collision remains under investigation, and OPP Technical Collision Investigators are currently at the scene.

> Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands OPP

Conservation Initiative - The Highlands Corridor

by RICK WHITTEKER

Special to the Times

The buzz of a full house at the Fish Hatchery on Friday, Mar. 3 greeted the presenters of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) showcasing their new conservation initiative called the Highlands Corridor.

The corridor is a swath of land that runs across southern edge of the Canadian Shield in southern Haliburton County. Linking up three provincial parks, from Silent Lake in the east to Kawartha Highlands in the south and Queen Elizabeth 11 in the west, this area has been identified as a significant wildlife corridor covering over 100,000 hectares of unceded crown land, municipal and private land.

The presentation began with Shelley Hunt, Chair of the Executive Committee of the HHLT giving an overview of the organization including introducing some board members and past Chair, Sheila Ziman.

Hunt pointed out that when people think of the Land Trust, they recognize an organization that acquires public land for conservation, Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, Dahl Forest and Norah's Island as examples.

However, Hunt reminded the audience of some of the other mandates of the HHLT including community engagement through outreach and education programs, like the popular Discovery Days program.

The HHLT also gathers data on the landscapes and ecosystems of Haliburton County. Government grants have allowed the HHLT to do field research on species at risk (SAR), wetland assessment and other projects including the highly successful Turtle Mortality Mitigation Project that received national and international attention.

The genesis of The Highlands Corridor conservation initiative came from the field research done by the Land Trust.

Speaking about the project was Paul Heaven from Glenside Ecological Services. Heaven, who has coordinated much of the HHLT research related to the corridor, presented on its ecological significance. The corridor is 71 per cent forest of which 75 per cent is older forests. 17.9 per cent of the corridor is classified as wetland, a very high percentage for this ecoregion according to Heaven.

The habitat in the corridor supports 35 federal and provincial species at risk, 21 provincially significant and 38 local rare species. Conservation of the habitats that support these species is an important step to maintaining the region's biodiversity.

The Land Trust also envisions this corridor as a nature-based strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Forests store carbon and supply life supporting oxygen. Wetlands both store carbon and mitigate flooding, an all-toocommon consequence of extreme weather events. Heaven explained that wetlands, especially those with sphagnum moss, act like sponges, swelling and absorbing excessive water from spring runoff and storms, discharging it to groundwater and slowly releasing water to surrounding environments.

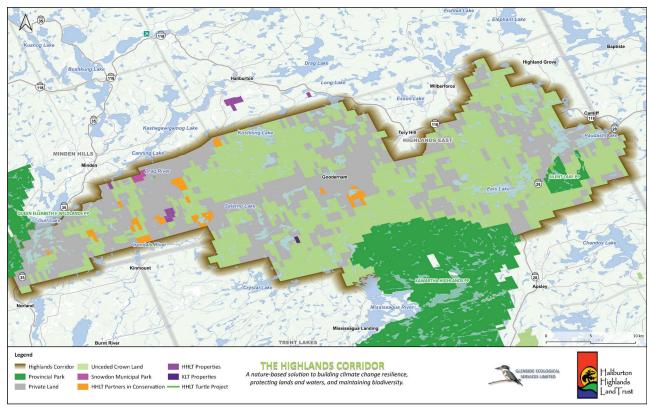
Regarding wetland carbon storage, Heaven validated this point by showing the audience a core sample of dark brown peat from a local wetland. Looking like a short, fat cigar, this peat is 100 per cent carbon stored from years of plant matter dying and slowly decomposing in bogs and fens.

Collaboration is important to any land conservation initiative, and to that point, five landowners adjacent to crown land and provincially significant wetlands have joined the HHLT's Partners in Conservation program. Program participants receive a complete forest and wetland species inventory on their property. Management tools are made available to the landowner to help assist in their land stewardship plans.

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust believes that The Highlands Corridor would best fit as a Conservation Reserve under the provisions of the provincial Crown land use designation. The conservation designation is being sought for the 60,000 hectares of unceded crown land only, not for the private or municipal land in the corridor.

Heaven commented that The Highlands Corridor is an onportunity to make a small contribution to the global goal of conserving 30 per cent of Earth's land and ocean environments by 2030. Ontario has protection in place for only 10.7 per cent of its land, "so we have a long way to go to meet this goal," says Heaven.

A delegation will head to Queen's Park on May 4 to present their initiative to provincial ministers. Organized by Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, The Highlands Corridor appears like a natural way to support biodiversity, improve climate change resilience, and conserve the ecosystems we depend on and enjoy in the Haliburton Highlands.



For more information on The Highlands Corridor, see locally produced video at www.youtube.com/ watch?v=WyExx2-ZnPI&t=3s or the Land Trust website at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca. /Submitted by Paul Heaven



Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott speaks about the \$9,100 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant allowing for the Highlands Corridor Haliburton Highlands Land Trust initiative to take place /VIVIAN COLLINGS



Chair of Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Shelley Hunt thanks the crowd at the end of the Highlands Corridor presentation.



Biologist Paul Heaven holds up a piece of carbonrich soil extracted from a local wetland.

Winter carnival cheer

Chloe Collins and Jalynn Chambers of Minden show off their balloon creations from the Archie Stouffer Winter Carnival on March 9. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff





Jeff Ryan, Alexander
Dacunha, Michael
Nesbitt, and Heather
McInroy from
Haliburton County
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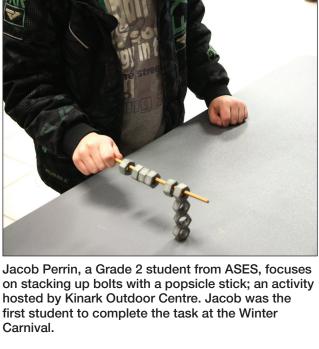
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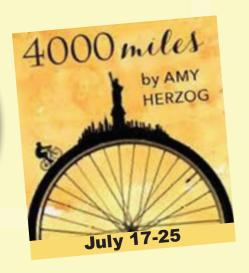
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Why Your Opinion Matters TOURISM MATTERS



You may have seen the recent Resident Sentiment Survey (RSS) that was shared online in December. In this third installment of six, we look at the County's Department of Tourism and its function when it comes to not only promoting but also developing tourism in the region.

Through the RSS, one thing that was made clear is that many of you do not have a clear view on what our county's department of tourism does. And indeed, both the model and function of this department has changed dramatically over the last year.

Prior to January 2022, Haliburton County focused solely on marketing and promoting the region to the rest of Ontario, Canada, and indeed, the world. As such, residents wouldn't really see those efforts as it was all about communicating out to potential visitors rather than having conversations within. Since January 2022, the County has made several fundamental changes to the department, bringing in a Director of Economic Development and Tourism, hiring a Manager of Tourism, and most significantly, introducing a Destination Management Plan (DMP) to guide the development of tourism here through a community-based management process.

The DMP informs smart destination development and marketing decisions, focusing on building communities as much as promoting them, and driving higher conversion rates for more local small businesses year-round. For these reasons, and many more, communitybased tourism is a priority within the County. If you look at the 2019 visitor data for the entire region (RTO11), which includes the Haliburton Highlands, it does clearly demonstrate just how important the visitor economy is for our community:

2019 Visitor Data for RTO11 Region:

- Total visits: More than 4 million each year (4,235,461)
- Total tourism receipts: Over \$637 million (\$637,171,861)
- Average spend per overnight visitor: \$231
- Average spend per visitor: \$142
- Average overnight number of stays: 3 days
- Approximately 650 tourism industry businesses

So, what exactly does our tourism department do? Well, there are several activities that the team undertakes to build the Haliburton Highlands into a year-round destination. When it comes to engaging with potential visitors to the region, they produce a visitor newsletter that continues to outperform industry standards and have made many new enhancements (new content and resources) to the tourism website - MyHaliburtonHighlands.com. And this work is paying off – 2022 saw the highest number of visits to the website ever, with a year-overyear increase of 19% from 2021 and a 34% increase since 2019.

When it comes to local stakeholders, the department works directly with individual tourism businesses and not-for-profits conducting in-person visits (over 75 to-date), along with providing several one-on-one business consultations. It also produces regular emails from the desk of the Manager of Tourism, to keep people as informed as possible on any news that might impact their business.

On the industry relations side, the department works with the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO), a provincial tourism advocacy agency, on tourism-related issues, and meets regularly with the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC) to address workforce challenges in the industry. It has an active partnership with the Workforce Development Board (WBD), HCDC and has a marketing partnership with Ontario Highlands Tourism Association (OHTO). The Economic Development & Tourism division launched the County's first Annual Tourism and Business Summit in 2022, with plans for a 2nd Annual Summit coming this May.



Stay tuned for more details on the survey feedback, including what we've learned and how we plan to put that information into action. In the meantime, if you have any questions at all, please get in touch with Tracie Bertrand, Manager of Tourism for Haliburton County, at tbertrand@haliburtoncounty.ca.

SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Committee of Adjustment - Notice of Public Hearing **Application For Minor Variance**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Committee of Adjustment of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Hearing on:

Date: Monday, March 27, 2023

9:30 AM Time:

Location: This meeting will be held as an electronic hearing by way of a virtual meeting.

Join the meeting by telephone by dialing either: 1-647-374-4685 OR 1-647-558-0588

Enter Meeting ID: 884 2216 6090 and Passcode: 967525

Join the meeting using a computer or smart phone at: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88422166090?pwd=MThaRnBKV0RLdkwzNHA3bVhvYjI3Zz09

Members of the public are welcome to watch the Committee of Adjustment meeting by joining YouTube at: https://youtube.com/live/pZk3IMCmfzo?feature=share

Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Hearing must pre-register by emailing dsisson@mindenhills.ca by Friday March 24th before 4:00 PM or by attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 9:00 AM. Participants registering after 9:00 AM will not be permitted into the public

Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the hearing as permitted by the Chair. Please note the live-stream link provided for each hearing will only be activated while Committee of Adjustment is in session.

The purpose of the Public Meeting will be to consider Minor Variance Applications PLMV2023001, and PLMV2023004 and the proposed Minor Variances to the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 45 of the Planning Act as shown below:

PLMV2023001 - Part Lot 23, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; municipally known as 1092 Wessell Road and located on East Moore Lake (See Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended, to permit the renovation of an existing dwelling located 6.2 metres (20.5 feet) from the highwater mark (HWM) and being on an undersized lot. The application would result in an increase in the dwelling height of 0.6 metres (2 feet), whereas no increase in height or size is otherwise permitted in accordance with Section 4.8.4 iv) for a building or structure located within 15 metres of the HWM.

PLMV2023004 - Part Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1096 Pocket Trail and located on Kashagawigamog Lake (See Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended, to permit the renovation of an existing dwelling in order to add a second storey. The application would result in an increase in the dwelling height of 3.05 metres (10 feet), whereas in accordance with Section 4.8.4 ii) a maximum increase of 1.2 metres (4 feet) is permitted for a non-complying building or structure.





Additional information regarding these applications will be available online. Links to meeting agendas and full reports can be found on our Minden Hills Civic Web. A copy of the complete applications will be available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

Input on the above noted applications is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Township. To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision, please contact the undersigned or e-mail adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Any person or agency who is of the opinion that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause them significant prejudice, may make a submission to the undersigned, and if the Committee is satisfied that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause the party significant prejudice then the hearing will be re-scheduled as an oral hearing. If a person or agency does not make a submission to the Secretary Treasurer prior to the electronic hearing, and the person or agency does not participate in the hearing in accordance with this Notice, then the Committee may proceed without the party's participation and the party will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceeding.

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

For more information about this matter contact at adougherty@mindenhills.ca or 705-742-2297 ext. 278

Amanda Dougherty Township Planning Consultant Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment P.O. Box 359, 7 Milne Street, Minden ON, K0M 2K0



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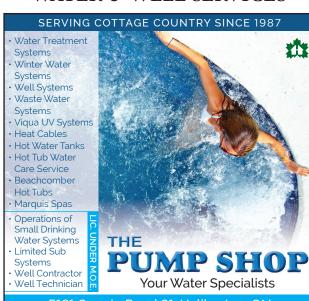
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Camp Timberlane is a co-ed residential summer camp for campers aged 6 - 16 and is looking to hire candidates to join our onsite Housekeeping / Laundry team and our Grounds Keeping and Maintenance. For more information about the camp, visit us at www.Camptimberlane.ca

Housekeeping/Laundry - Full Time, Temporary, Contract Four positions available

Our Housekeeping and Laundry areas are managed with teams split between Housekeeping and Laundry.

Responsibilities include: cleaning of all buildings, accommodations, washrooms, shower facilities and common areas throughout the camp, including the turnover of living space throughout camp and overall upkeep of camp

facilities. Cleaning and light maintenance duties include, but not limited to sweeping, mopping, cleaning, painting and replenishing supplies needed for showers and washrooms.

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Candidates will be cross-trained and or assigned to areas based on existing skills and previous work experience. Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment. Salary: Housekeeping / Laundry or Grounds Keeping: \$17.50 - \$19.50 per hour based on experience. Maintenance with construction/building experience: \$25.00 and up.

Submit application and resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca

Minden Times lassifieds

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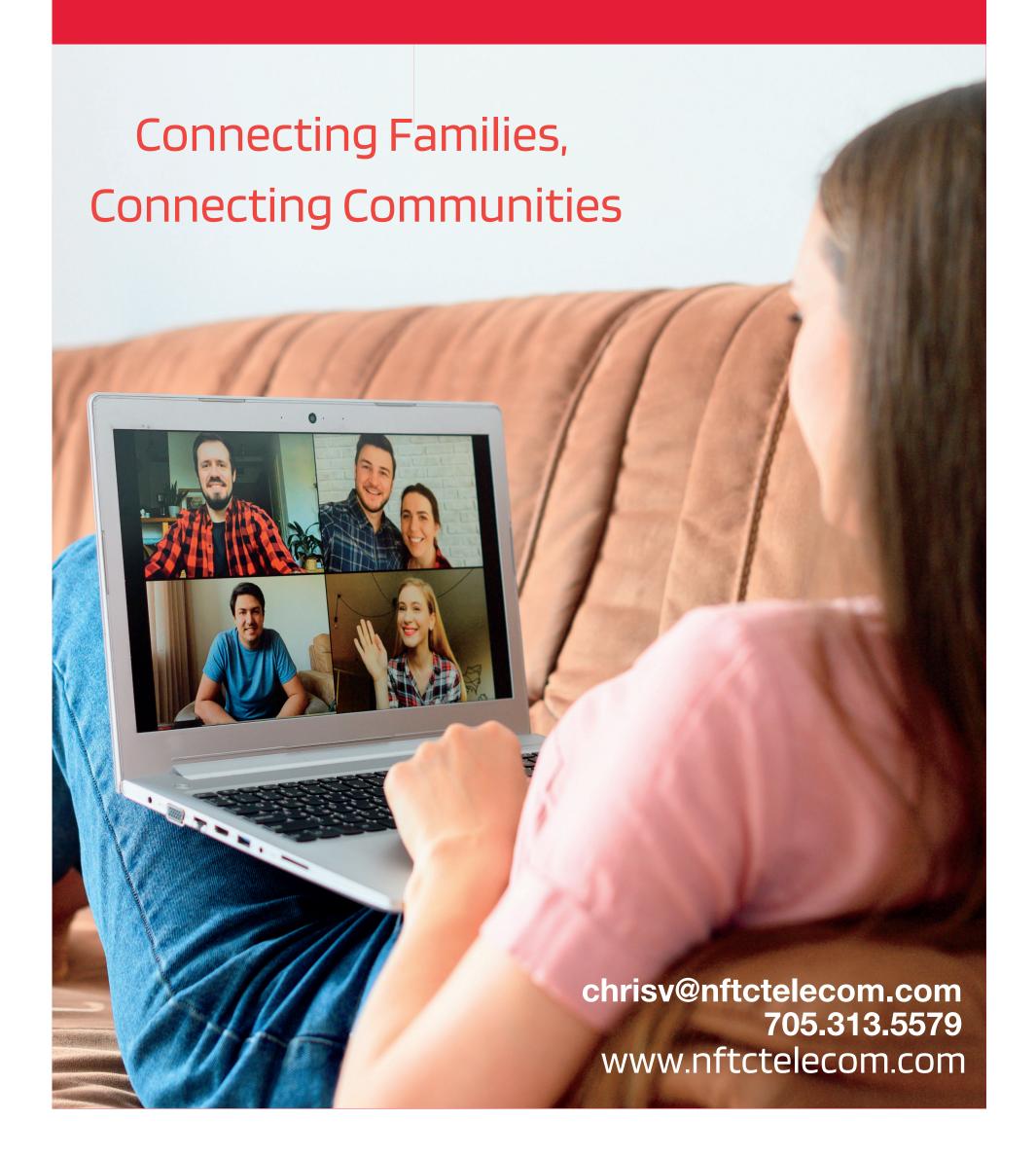
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Norland and Kinmount face life without schools - See page 4





Monday, March 2, 1992

Number 1513

Use of chemicals in spraying feared

by Susan Grober

The federation of cottagers' associations is concerned there will be adverse effects on the environment now that private landowners must cover the costs of a spray program to combat the gypsy moth.

A press release issued by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations last week states that the Ministry of Natural Resources' "sudden abandonment" of funding could mean many property owners will opt out of the pro-

gram.

"The expectation has been created that the program would be in place this spring," federation president Barry Mitchell said in the

"Many of our members are seasonal residents who made their spraying commitment last fall before closing up the cottage for the winter." said Mitchell. "FOCA is very concerned that these members cannot be reached in time and will not have sufficient opportunity to make alternate plans for this spring.

The federation is also worried that those who go ahead and pay for the spraying on their own will choose less expensive, hazardous

The program funded by the Ministry of Natural Resources used a biological insecticide called Bt, which must be eaten by caterpillars to be activated.

But Bt is more expensive than some chemical sprays, says Andy Paul, the county's forest health program co-ordinator, who is currently going through program applications and working out spray blocks.

Paul is well aware of the association's

"We want to use Bt too," he says. "We don't want to go into the private sector with chemicals."

Paul says larger properties have been mathematically eliminated from the program because small landowners are the only ones who can afford to spray.

He also said the county can't afford to provide any funding.

However, final plans for the 1992 gypsy moth spray program are being held off until the county hears word if it will receive funding from the province.

Paul, took part in a meeting last week with the ministry of natural resources, and Ontario aerial applicators. Paul was told by a ministry representative there is "a remote possibility" of using money allocated for setting up a forest health program, "so we're kind of on hold right

The information was provided by Cindy Krishka, forest health co-ordinator at the MNR's Tweed office.

Paul says he hopes to hear from Krishka sometime this week.

Because he's uncertain whether the money can be used, Paul says it's premature to work out the final details for the program.

Earlier this month, natural resources minister Bud Wildman announced that the \$3.8 million in funding set for the spray programs would be re-allocated to other "higher-priority initiatives in its forestry program.

County council then approved a plan to proceed with the program, with participating landowners paying for the spray used on their



Dongola home destroyed

A mid-day fire on Baseline Road just south of Highway 503 last Monday, February 24, destroyed the home of Barry Trottier, Nancy Dollack and their children Jason Trottier, and Ryan and Morgan Dollack. Firefighters from Bexley, Somerville and Kinmount responded to the alarm, battling the blaze from shortly after noon until almost 5 p.m.

Premier denies government reneged on 18-bed promise

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

Ontario Premier Bob Rae has denied that his government reneged on a promise to build an 18-bed chronic care addition to the Haliburton Hospital.

Rae attended last weekend's meeting of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association and during a "bear pit session" he fielded questions from publishers, editors and reporters representing community newspapers from across the province

Len Pizzey, publisher of the Haliburton County Echo, reminded the premier of the promise, made during the 1990 provincial election, to build the 18-bed unit and asked the Rae how citizens of the county could regard that promise as anything more than a calculated lie designed to win votes.

In response, Rae said he appreciates the frustration felt by Haliburton County residents and, while admitting he isn't fully aware of the issue, said the ministry of health has continued to work on the chronic care situation in Haliburton County.

"As far as I'm aware the plans are being actively considered," said Rae. "They are part of an overall capital review."

He said the health ministry has been working hard on the issue of chronic care in the Haliburton area" and promised to find out more about the matter and provide a detailed answer at a later date.

"There has been no reneging," he said. The local NDP member of the provincial government, Dennis Drainville, made the

chronic care issue a priority during his successful bid to win the riding in the 1990 election. He strongly criticized the previous Liberal government for first approving the chronic care unit and then putting it on hold pending the completion of a detailed study of Haliburton County's health, housing and social serv-

Drainville said the Liberal's treatment of the issue indicated that Haliburton had become the "forgotten county" in the province of On-

On two separate occasions during the election, Rae visited the riding in support of Drainville's campaign and promised that, if elected, the NDP would make sure the chronic care unit was built before considering the recommendations of the directional health plan.

The directional plan was released last spring and among its recommendations was the proposal to build 40 new long-term care beds in the county. The plan was accepted by the provincial government in October and approval was given for up to 30 beds. The announcement was accompanied by \$2.3 million in funding.

A coordinator has been hired to oversee the directional plan and a implementation committee is being set up to put the recommendations into place.

Board will consider new school option

The board of education has agreed to take another look at the school accommo-

During the regular board meeting last Tuesday, Minden trustees Mary Anne Wilson and Wendy Ladurantaye reported on the public meeting held at the Minden Community Centre two weeks ago and presented the board with the comments and submissions made by resi-

It was at that public meeting that residents Doug Campbell and Bryan Kernohan presented their proposal for school accommodation which will keep

Grade 7, 8 and 9 students in Minden and would save the board \$1.6 million.

"As much as I had some apprehension about the meeting, it was very well run," said Ladurantaye.

"I didn't feel at risk being there. People just wanted to have a voice."

In separate resolutions, the board accepted the material provided by the two trustees, and referred the matter to the management committee for more discus-

Kernohan and Campbell have offered to meet with the committee to discuss their proposal if the members wish.

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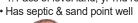
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Oversized lot for outdoor business





Access to 3-Lake Chain - Miles of Boating,

Fishing & Swimming Spacious 3 Bedroom with In-Law Suite or

Stunning Log Timber Frame

Acreage with a year-round creek

Incredible stone fireplace floor to ceiling Nestled between two serene lakes

Level Lot, Tandem Garage & Dry Boathouse



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GOLD GROUP

KENNISIS RIVER - \$697,000



Fabulous year-round home or cottage with a spacious level lot. Boat the river into Halls Lake. Three bedrooms, vaulted ceiling and large picture windows facing the river. This home has been lovingly maintained and won't disappoint. Large one-car garage, quiet community and close to boat launches and snowmobile trails.



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